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Animal Life: A First Book of Zoölogy. By DAVID STARR JORDAN AND VERNON L. KELLOGG. New York: D. Appleton & Co. Pp. ix + 329.

THE authors of this book have given us an admirable addition to our text-books on zoölogy in this elementary account of animal ecology. Although it is called "A First Book of Zoölogy," a beginner who takes up this work without any previous knowledge of animal forms will find himself in deep water at the outset. Such studies as are here given must be preceded by a study of animal forms, either in the field or the laboratory, in order to give them value. This book is not intended to supplant laboratory guides or books on systematic zoölogy, but will find its best use as a supplement to them, and as such is a welcome addition to our list of reference-books.

In the words of the authors, "the book treats of animals from the point of view of the observer and student of animal life who wishes to know why animals are in structure and habits as they are." "The veriest beginner can be, and ought to be, an independent observer and thinker. It is the phase of the study of zoölogy which appeals most strongly to the beginning student, the phase which treats of the why and how of animal form and habit. At the same time this phase is that to which the attention of the most advanced modern scholars of biology is rightly and chiefly turned." These extracts from the preface show clearly and concisely the character of the book.

The opening chapter is on "The Life of the Simplest Animals," with a careful and sufficiently ample account of the animal cell. Then follows a chapter, full of interesting information, on the "Life of the Slightly Complex Animals." The treatment of the medusæ is rather meager for this group which is so fascinating to the young student. The sea anemone is given only brief notice quite inadequate to the laboratory importance assigned to it.

"The Life Cycle" is treated in a very clear and attractive account, which is well within the grasp of the average secondary-school student, provided his knowledge of animals has been previously acquired in the laboratory or field. It should be carefully read by all students, for it answers many of the why's that come to the mind of all inquirers in this branch of study. In a very few pages is given the life-history, from the egg to the mature individual, of the principal groups of animals from lowest to highest, simply expressed and with sufficient fulness not to be obscure.

"The Crowd of Animals and the Struggle for Existence" will well repay reading by any person, whether zoölogical student or not, for it puts very vividly the constant struggle that animals in a state of nature are subjected to in their efforts to perpetuate the life of the species. "Adaptations" contains much information not available to the average laboratory student that is highly interesting and valuable in clarifying his understanding of much that he sees in the laboratory and in the world about him. "Animal Communities and Social Life" prepare him for a better understanding of the larger works on the fascinating group of ants, bees, and wasps. The final chapter, on "Geographical Distribution," is so full of facts as to suggest a dictionary or an abridged encyclopedia; yet one wishes there were more of it.

The whole book is written in a happy vein, and all the topics are so vividly pictured that the interest is sustained to the end.

The illustrations are on the whole good and clearly show the points desired. A few are, however, too indistinct to be more than vaguely suggestive, like those of the fur seal rookeries on pp. 165 and 169.

The book, as a whole, is of such an order of excellence that all laboratories and reference libraries should have copies. They will undoubtedly stimulate the student and general reader to further observation. We are grateful to the authors for this addition to our resources.

CHARLES H. MORSS.

MEDFORD, MASS.

Civil Government. By J. R. FLICKINGER. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.
Pp. 350. \$1.

THE author designates the book "*Civil Government*, as Developed in the States and in the United States." Part I deals with definitions, origin of government, and development of liberty; Part II, with the colonies; Part III, with the states; and Part IV, with the government of the United States.

The chief features of the book are: (1) a good discussion of the origin of self-government in the small local units; (2) the three forms of local government in this country and their movement from the Atlantic seaboard to the West; (3) the transition of the colonies into states, and the union of the states. The main emphasis is given to local government.

The book is written almost wholly in the past tense. A civil government to be interesting to young people must be written largely in the present tense. The interest centers in what things government can do and how it does them. There is too much tedious repetition in the details of the various states. Striking features common to a considerable number of states should have been classified and grouped. The qualifications for the suffrage as presented for the various states are not brought up to date, as no mention is made of the "intelligence" and "grandfather" clauses in the recent state constitutions of the South.

This book is better adapted for reference purposes than for a text-book.

JEREMIAH S. YOUNG.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
Mankato, Minn.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[The notice here given does not preclude the publishing of a comprehensive review of any of these books.]

A First French Book. By Charles Alfred Downer, College of the City of New York. Size, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$. Pp. 348. Price, \$1.10. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

The author states his aim to be "to lead the learner to conscious knowledge, to develop his faculty of deriving principles for himself." How well he has been able to accomplish this we hope to test in a review.

Athalie Tragédie Tirée de l'Écriture Sainte. Par Jean Racine. Edited by F. C. De Sumichrast. Size, 5×7 . Pp. 194. Price, 60 cents. New York: The Macmillan Co.

The object of this edition of *Athalie* is to present it to teachers and students as a living play, intended for public performance, and not merely for quiet reading in the